

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Thursday, March 28, 2024

Maundy Thursday



WELCOME AND GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Mandatum* Chamber Choir

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism. God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

HYMN: *It Happened on That Fateful Night* All Stand & Sing

It happened on that fateful night
When pow'rs of earth and hell arose
Against the Son, our God's delight,
And friends betrayed him to his foes.

Before that bitter scene began,
He took the bread, and blest and broke.
What love through all his actions ran!
What wondrous words of love he spoke!

“My body, broken for your sin,
Receive and eat as living food.”

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; hymnal version, 1978
W. Hauser, Hesperian Harp, 1848

He took the cup and blest the wine:
”Share this new testament, my blood.”

“Do this,” he said, “til time shall end,
Remembering your dying friend;
Meet at my table and record
The full obedience of your Lord.”

O Lord, your feast we celebrate;
We show your death; we sing your name
Till you return, when we shall eat
The marriage supper of the Lamb.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1–14

A reading from Exodus, the twelfth chapter.

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ² This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to

the number of people who eat of it. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

A reading from First Corinthians, the eleventh chapter.

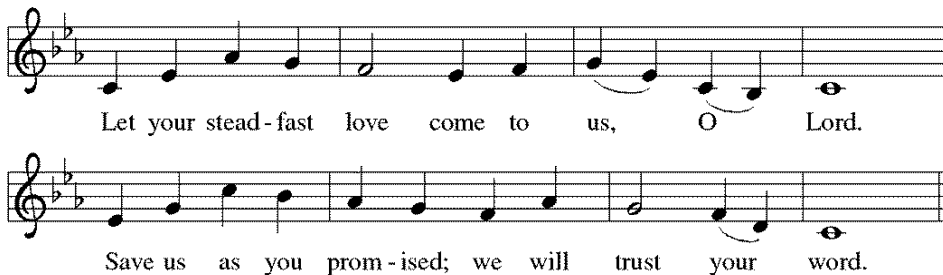
In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another, because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in the meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

¹ Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."



¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher,

have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

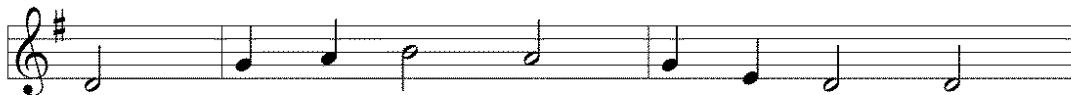
³¹ Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P The gospel of the Lord.

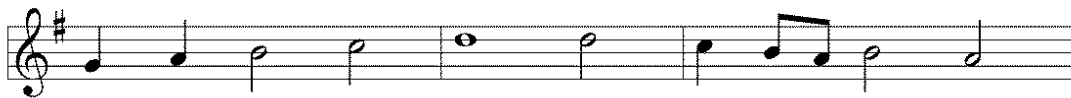
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON..... Deacon Beka

HYMN: *Love Consecrates the Humblest Act* All Stand & Sing



1 Love con - se - crates the hum - blest act and
 2 When in the shad - ow of the cross Christ
 3 Love serves and will - ing stoops to serve; what



ha - loes mer - cy's deeds; it sheds a ben - e -
 knelt and washed the feet of his dis - ci - ples,
 Christ in love so true has free - ly done for



dic - tion sweet and hal - lows hu - man needs.
 he gave us a sign of love com - plete.
 one and all, let us now glad - ly do!

Text: Silas B. McManus, c. 1902, alt.
 Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God who kneels to wash our feet, gather your church around the world during this holy week. Humble the powerful and lift up any who are marginalized. Renew our faith and make us bold in service and love to our neighbors. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who blesses the grain of the soil and the fruit of the vine, inspire in us a reverent care for the earth. Sustain fields, gardens, and wild places, that all people are fed and every living thing flourishes. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God whose greatest commandment is love, guide all who govern by the principle of love. Transform unjust human systems that oppress some for the gain of others. Restore communities as places of justice and concern for those who are vulnerable. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who was betrayed, comfort people everywhere who have suffered abuse at the hands of someone they knew and trusted. Heal the bodies, minds, and hearts of victims of exploitation. Help all in pain to know that you are near. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who sits at the table with us, grant the joy of your presence to all who share the meal. Strengthen communities of faith in grace and courage. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God who brings new life out of death, we pray with thanks for the lives of those who have joined the communion of saints. In our holy meal, connect us to the faithful who have gone before us, and nourish us as your people living today. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

ANTHEM: *In All Our Grief*. Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Restore In Us, O God* All Stand & Sing

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove. | 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy. |
| 2 O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r. | 4 Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face. |

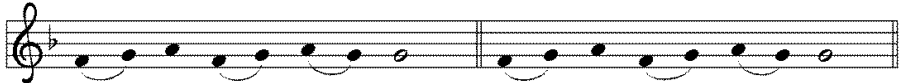

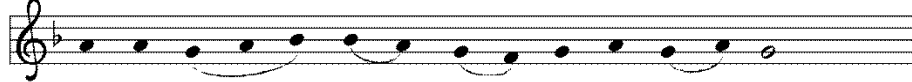

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray

C Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

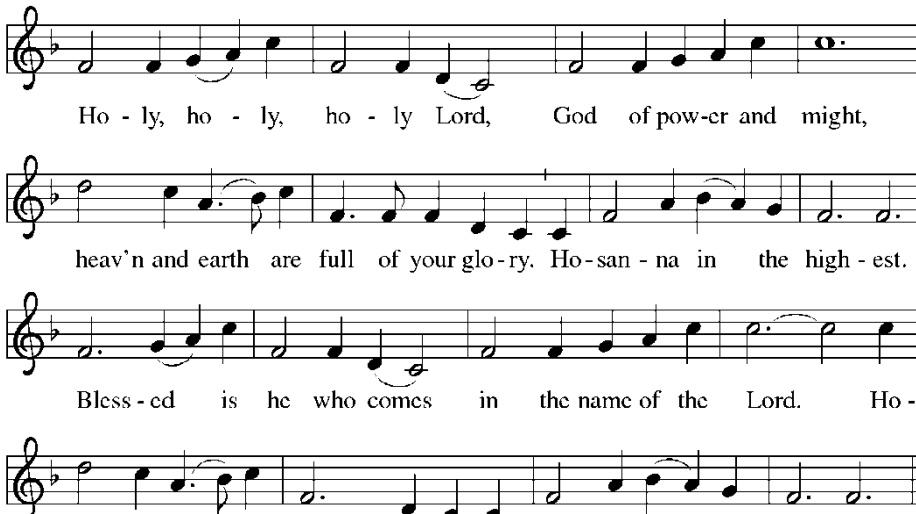
DIALOGUE

	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
		
	The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.	
		
	Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.	
<i>Pastor</i>		
	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	
<i>Cong.</i>		
	It is right to give our thanks and praise.	

PREFACE

...We praise your name and join their unending hymn...

HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Solo by Don Robinson

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

C Thanks be to God.



All people are welcome at the Lord's Table to receive Christ's real presence and grace. You are invited forward to take a cup and then kneel around the altar as you're able. You'll receive the bread and eat, then hold your cup to be filled with wine and drink. You'll then return to your seat the way you came forward.

FOOT WASHING: *Once you commune, you are invited but not required to move to one of the foot washing stations and have your feet washed.*

LAMB OF GOD

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us." "Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us." "Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,"

grant us peace, grant us peace.

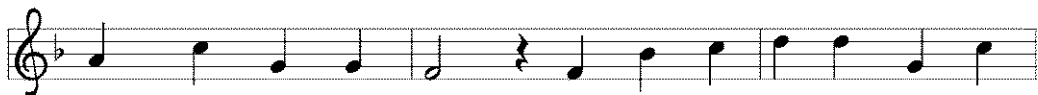
Music: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
 Adapt. © 1985, 1999 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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COMMUNION HYMN: *Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed* All Sing

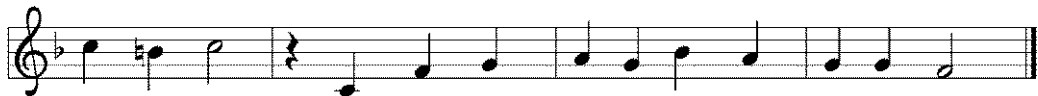
1 Lord, who the night you were be - trayed did pray that all your
 2 For all your church on earth, we in - ter - cede; Lord, make our
 3 And hear our prayer for wan-d'ers from your fold; re - store them,
 4 So, Lord, at length when sac - ra - ments shall cease, may we be

church might be for - ev - er one: help us at
 sad di - vi - sions soon to cease; draw us all
 too, Good Shep - herd of the sheep, back to the
 one with all your church a - bove— one with your

ev - 'ry eu - cha - rist to say with will - ing heart and
 clos - er, each to each, we plead, by draw - ing all to
 faith your saints con - fessed of old, and to the church still
 saints in one un - bro - ken peace, one with your saints in



soul, "Your will be done." Oh, may we all one bread, one
you, O Prince of peace; thus may we all one bread, one
pledged that faith to keep. Soon may we all one bread, one
one un - bound - ed love; more bless - ed still, in peace and



bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
love to be one with the Trin - i - ty in u - ni - ty.

Text: William H. Turton, 1856–1938, alt.
Music: SONG 1, Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR Pastor and Choir alternate.



PSALM 22

- ¹My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me*
and are so far from my cry, and from the words of | my distress?
- ²O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you | do not answer;*
by night as well, but I | find no rest.
- ³Yet you are the | Holy One,*
enthroned upon the prais- | es of Israel.
- ⁴Our forefathers put their | trust in you;*
they trusted, and you de- | livered them.
- ⁵They cried out to you and | were delivered;*
they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.
- ⁶But as for me, I am a worm | and no man,*
scorned by all and despised | by the people.
- ⁷All who see me laugh | me to scorn;*
they curl their lips and wag | their heads, saying,
- ⁸“He trusted in the LORD; let him de- | liver him;*
let him rescue him, if he de- | lights in him.”
- ⁹Yet you are he who took me out | of the womb,*
and kept me safe upon my | mother’s breast.
- ¹⁰I have been entrusted to you ever since | I was born;*
you were my God when I was still in my | mother’s womb.
- ¹¹Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,*
and there is | none to help.
- ¹²Many young bulls en- | circle me;*
strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me.
- ¹³They open wide their | jaws at me,*
like a ravening and a | roaring lion.
- ¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones are | out of joint;*
my heart within my breast is | melting wax.
- ¹⁵My mouth is dried out like a pot- | sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof | of my mouth;*
and you have laid me in the dust | of the grave.
- ¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers cir- | cle around me;*
they pierce my hands and my feet, I can count | all my bones.

- ¹⁷They stare and gloat | over me;*
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots | for my clothing.
- ¹⁸Be not far a- | way, O LORD;*
you are my strength; hast- | en to help me.
- ¹⁹Save me | from the sword,*
my life from the power | of the dog.
- ²⁰Save me from the | lion's mouth,*
my wretched body from the horns | of wild bulls.
- ²¹I will declare your name | to my brethren;*
in the midst of the congregation | I will praise you.
- ²²Praise the LORD, | you that fear him;*
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's | line, give glory.
- ²³For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his | face from them;*
but when they cry to | him he hears them.
- ²⁴My praise is of him in the | great assembly;*
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who | worship him.
- ²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the | LORD shall praise him:*
“May your heart | live forever!”
- ²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,*
and all the families of the nations shall | bow before him.
- ²⁷For kingship belongs | to the LORD;*
he rules o- | ver the nations.
- ²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow | down in worship;*
all who go down to the dust | fall before him.
- ²⁹My soul shall live for him; my descend- | ants shall serve him;*
they shall be known as the | LORD's forever.
- ³⁰They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn*
the saving deeds that | he has done.

LET US GO IN PEACE

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Friday, March 29th

7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship

Saturday, March 30th

2:00 pm – Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 31st

7:00 am – Easter Sunrise Service

8:00 am – Easter Breakfast

10:30 am – Easter Worship



"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond."

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give**

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

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holycomforter@gmail.com

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: mkearney@holyc.org

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: rforst@holyc.org

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster